



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
June 6, 2006

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BLM Taos Goes into Stage One Fire Restrictions

Fire Restrictions Due to High Fire Danger

Taos, NM—Effective immediately, BLM's Taos Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is issuing a fire restriction order for the public lands it manages until further notice.

Due to the high to extreme fire danger resulting from the unusually low precipitation and dry weather conditions, these restrictions are necessary. Violation of these restrictions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months or both.

The restrictions in place are:

1. Building and using a fire, campfire, or charcoal broiler on all public lands managed by the Taos Field Office.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared or all flammable material.
3. Use of fireworks anywhere on public lands.

Exception: Campfires, charcoal broilers, and the use of pressurized liquid or gas stoves are allowed in the established recreation areas, which include Wild Rivers, Orilla Verde and Santa Cruz Lake, within developed metal fire rings or grills provided by the BLM. Gas stoves are permitted only within BLM lands on the Rio Chama and John Dunn Bridge site.

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Note: An advisory is also in place. Due to dry conditions and the high temperatures developed by catalytic converters now installed on most vehicles, the BLM advises that if you must stop anywhere on public lands your vehicle must be parked in an area that is barren of all flammable materials.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 9212.2 (b), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

-30-



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